

Claims After Appeal Decision

1. canceled
2. canceled
3. (currently amended) A method of coating an implantable medical device comprising:
applying a composition, from a coating dispenser, including a solvent to an
implantable medical device; and
directing a gas, from a gas dispenser positioned at a distance from the coating
dispenser, onto the implantable medical device, wherein if the solvent has a vapor pressure
greater than 17.54 Torr at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to decrease
the evaporation rate of the solvent, and if the solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 17.54 Torr
at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to increase the evaporation rate of
the solvent ~~The method of Claim 1~~, wherein the composition is applied simultaneous with the
directing of the gas.
4. - 14. canceled
15. (currently amended) A method of coating an implantable medical device comprising:
applying a composition, from a coating dispenser, including a solvent to an
implantable medical device; and
directing a gas, from a gas dispenser positioned at a distance from the coating
dispenser, onto the implantable medical device, wherein if the solvent has a vapor pressure
greater than 17.54 Torr at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to decrease
the evaporation rate of the solvent, and if the solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 17.54 Torr
at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to increase the evaporation rate of
the solvent ~~The method of Claim 1~~, wherein the act of directing the gas is performed at a flow
rate of about 300 feet/minute to about 10,000 feet/minute.
16. - 22. canceled

23. (previously presented) A method of coating an implantable medical device comprising:
applying a composition, from a coating dispenser, including a solvent to an implantable medical device; and
blowing a gas, from a gas blower positioned at a distance from the coating dispenser, directly onto the implantable medical device to either increase or decrease the evaporation rate of the solvent from the composition on the implantable medical device, wherein if the solvent is non-volatile the temperature of the gas is adjusted to increase the evaporation of the solvent, and if the solvent is volatile the temperature of the gas is adjusted to decrease the evaporation rate of the solvent.
24. (original) The method of Claim 23, wherein if the solvent is volatile, the temperature of the gas is significantly less than the boiling temperature of the solvent.
25. (original) The method of Claim 23, wherein the temperature of the gas is about 25°C to about 200°C for the non-volatile solvent and is less than 25°C for the volatile solvent.
26. (original) The method of Claim 23, further comprising, if the solvent is non-volatile increasing the temperature of the composition to a temperature above ambient temperature prior to application of the composition onto the implantable device, or alternatively, if the solvent is volatile decreasing the temperature of the composition to a temperature below ambient temperature prior to application of the composition onto the implantable device.
- 27.-32. canceled
33. (currently amended) A method of coating an implantable medical device comprising:
applying a composition, from a coating dispenser, including a solvent to an implantable medical device; and
directing a gas, from a gas dispenser positioned at a distance from the coating dispenser, onto the implantable medical device, wherein if the solvent has a vapor pressure greater than 17.54 Torr at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to decrease the evaporation rate of the solvent, and if the solvent has a vapor pressure of less than 17.54 Torr at ambient temperature the temperature of the gas is adjusted to increase the evaporation rate of

the solvent ~~The method of Claim 1~~, wherein applying the composition comprises spraying of the composition; wherein the directing of the gas comprises blowing the gas directly onto the device; wherein the spraying and blowing are conducted simultaneously; and wherein the blowing does not affect the direction of the spray onto the device.

34. - 43. canceled

44. (previously presented) The method of 23, wherein the steps of applying and blowing are conducted simultaneously.

45. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the gas comprises an inert gas.

46. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the gas comprises air.

47. canceled

48. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the composition includes a polymer.

49. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the composition includes a drug.

50. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the composition includes paclitaxel, docetaxel, or rapamycin or analogs or derivative thereof.

51. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent; wherein the stent is supported by a support assembly; and wherein the method additionally comprises rotating the stent about a longitudinal axis of the stent.

52. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent, wherein the stent is supported by a support assembly; wherein the steps of applying

and blowing are conducted simultaneously; and wherein during the steps of applying and blowing the stent is rotated about a longitudinal axis of the stent on the support assembly.

53. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein applying is via spraying.

54. - 58. canceled

59. (currently amended) A method of coating a stent comprising:
positioning a stent on a support assembly;
applying a coating substance including a solvent from a dispenser to the stent;
blowing a gas from a blower onto the stent to either increase or decrease the
evaporation rate of the solvent from the coating substance on the stent based on the
volatile properties of the solvent; and
rotating the stent supported by the support assembly about a longitudinal axis of
the stent ~~The method of Claim 54~~, wherein the coating substance includes paclitaxel, docetaxel,
 or rapamycin or analogs or derivative thereof.

60.-71. canceled

72. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the opening of the gas dispenser is pointed at and facing the implantable medical device.

73. - 77. (canceled)

78. (previously presented) The method of Claim 23, wherein the gas comprises nitrogen.